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Message Text

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ACTION PM-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SS-15 L-03 IGA-02 CIAE-00 INR-07

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---------- 122326
R 121403Z MAR 76
FM AMEMBASSY OSLO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1290
INFO USCINCEUR
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

C O N F I D E N T I A L OSLO 1254

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, NO, NATO
SUBJ: CHANGES IN FOREIGN MILITARY TRAINING PROGRAM

REF: STATE 051768

1. US-NORWEGIAN RELATIONS ARE CLOSE, BUT NOWHERE IS THE COOPERATION MORE INTIMATE OR, FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF US NATIONAL INTERESTS, MORE IMPORTANT THAN IN THE DEFENSE/SECURITY POLICY SPHERE. OUR COMMENTS ON THE POSSIBLE IMPACT OF CHANGES IN THE FOREIGN MILITARY TRAINING PROGRAM IN NORWAY SHOULD BE CONSIDERED IN THIS CONTEXT.

2. FOLLOWING COMMENTS KEYED TO PARAGRAPH 5 REFTEL:
A. THE NORWEGIAN MILITARY ESTABLISHMENT WOULD BE MOST UNHAPPY IF RETROACTIVE INCREASES ARE CHARGED FOR SECOND HALF OF FY 76 COURSES AND BILATERAL RELATIONS COULD WELL BE ADVERSELY AFFECTED AS A RESULT. ALSO, COST INCREASES IN THE GENERAL LIST OF FMS COURSES WILL STRAIN A DEFENSE BUDGET ALREADY UNDER SEVERE PRESSURE. DEPENDING UPON GHE SIZE OF THE INCREASES, THIS WILL
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UNDOUBTEDLY RAISE EYEBROWS IN THE DEFENSE ESTABLISH-

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MENT AS WELL WITH A POSSIBLE, BUT LESS SERIOUS
IMPACT ON OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS. SPECIFIC
COURSE COSTS MUST BE ESTABLISHED BEFORE
ANY IMPACT CAN BE ASSESSED ACCURATELY. THE PROPOSED 50 PERCENT
INCREASE HAS NOT CAUSED ANY SUBSTANTIAL CONCERN TO THE NORWEGIAN
ARMED SERVICES TO DATE.

B. THE TYPES OF TRAINING OF GREATEST INTEREST TO
NORWAY ARE AIR CREW TRAINING AND THAT TRAINING RELATED TO US
MAJOR WEAPONS SYSTEMS SUCH AS F-16,
P3-B, HELICOPTER, NIKE HERCULES, AND ROLAND II SHORT RANGE AIR DEFENS
E MISSILE IN
THE FUTURE. FROM THE US POINT OF VIEW, THE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOP-
MENT COURSES SUCH AS COMMAND AND GENERAL STAFF COLLEGE AND OFFICER
ADVANCED COURSES ARE OF GREATEST LONG TERM INTEREST. NORWAY
PAYS FOR ALL COURSES EXCEPT CGSC AND THE COSTS, WHEN KNOWN, WILL
DETERMINE IF THEY CONTINUE US TRAINING PROGRAMS. SUBSTANTIAL
INCREASES COULD PRECLUDE NORWEGIAN PARTICIPATION.

C. THE TYPES OF US COURSES THAT PROMOTE NATO
STANDARDIZATION ARE, WITHOUT DOUBT, OF GREATEST
BENEFIT TO US NATIONAL INTERESTS. THE MAJOR WEAPONS
SYSTEMS COURSES COMMON TO OTHER NATO COUNTRIES
SUCH AS F-16, NIKE HERCULES AND HELICOPTERS ARE SPECIFIC
EXAMPLES. ALSO NATO/EURO SCHOOL INITIATIVES, SUCH AS THE HELICOPTER
TRAINING COURSE NOW BEING ESTABLISHED AT FT RUCKER, ALABAMA, ARE
IMPORTANT CASES. ALL OF THE ABOVE ARE OR WILL BE IN FMS CATEGORY.

D. THE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT COURSES CITED ABOVE
AND CERTAIN PROFESSIONAL ENCHANCEMENT
COURSES SUCH AS MANAGEMENT COURSES WILL PROBABLY BE
ABANDONED FIRST DUE TO INCREASED COSTS. THE US
WEAPON SYSTEMS RELATED TRAINING WILL BE THE LAST
PROGRAMS ABANDONED, AND RELUCTANTLY SO, FOR OBVIOUS
SECURITY REASONS AND THE NOTABLE ABSENCE OF ANY ALTER-
NATIVE.

E. AGAIN, DEPENDING ON THE AMOUNT OF THE PRICE
INCREASES, VIRTUALLY ALL US COURSES WILL BE IN DIRECT
COMPETITION WITH TRAINING PROGRAMS OF OTHER EUROPEAN
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COUNTRIES. FOR EXAMPLE, THE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
COURSES COULD BE LOST TO NEUTRAL SWEDEN, GERMANY,
THE UK, OR DENMARK. OFTEN THERE ARE RECIPROCAL
TRAINING ARRANGEMENTS BETWEEN NORWAY AND THIRD
COUNTRIES WITH NO TUITION COSTS INVOLVED.

3. THE IMPORTANCE OF THE CONCEPT OF THE US TOTAL APPROACH TO
SUPPORTING FMS MATERIAL SHOULD NOT BE UNDERESTIMATED IN NORWAY

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OR THE NATO ALLIANCE. TRAINING IS AN INTEGRAL PART OF THAT
APPROACH, A SIGNIFICANT FACTOR INFLUENCING NORWAY'S
DECISIONS ON WEAPON SYSTEMS PURCHASES.
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